

Lochsa/Powell Ranger District

Lochsa Ranger District

The Lochsa Ranger District, headquartered in Kooskia, covers nearly 400,000 acres and has diverse landscapes rich in history and archaeology. National Historic Trails have been designated from footprints left by early Nez Perce people and the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The Nimiipuu Trail, Lewis and Clark Trail, and Lolo Motorway cross through the district. Evidence of early travelers still exists on the district in several historic places.

The district boasts abundant recreation opportunities, including hiking, wildlife viewing, and fishing. The Lochsa River, one of three designated Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, sports outstanding fly fishing and white water rafting. There are three popular hot springs along the Lochsa River corridor – Jerry Johnson, Weir Creek, and Stanley Hot Springs. Campgrounds are plentiful, with Wilderness Gateway being the largest, and known as an access point into designated Wilderness. The Clearwater River and its tributaries provide



spawning and rearing areas for both steelhead trout and Chinook salmon.

The Lochsa Historical Ranger Station is maintained as a visitor interpretive center during the summer months. The log buildings and simple furnishings represent an era that ended when the station became accessible by road in 1952.

Powell Ranger District

The Powell Ranger District is located along Highway 12, less than 15 miles from the Idaho-Montana state line. The district is comprised of 558,813 acres, including 191,141 acres in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Natural resource stewardship activities on the district center on fire management, wildlife and fisheries habitat, recreation, and vegetation management.

The Powell Ranger District and surrounding areas abound in year-‘round outdoor recreation opportunities. More than 500 miles of trails offer backpackers, hikers,

cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, and walkers plenty of variety to meet their needs. Camping sites are plentiful, from developed campgrounds to dispersed sites. Anglers can choose a favorite fishing hole from over 450 miles of streams, or from one of the many lakes on the district. Fly fishermen enjoy the challenge of catching cutthroat trout in the 25 mile catch-and-release stretch of the Lochsa River.

The Lolo Pass Visitor Center located on the state line features an interpretive display room, gift shop, educational videos, and local traveler information.

In addition, the Powell area is rich in history and archaeology. Powell itself is located on one of the camping sites used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition on their westward journey.

